

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2855
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF
USIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS DAMASCUS 2694

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 27, 1977

1. MEDIA LED DESCRIBING RESTORATION OF "NORMALCY" IN
BEIRUT AND VISIT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. BAATH
HEADLINED: "SECURITY HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL. ADF REQUESTS
RESPONSIVENESS TO ITS MEASURES TO INSURE PROGRESS OF PEACE."
ARTICLES FEATURED ADF COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNING THAT AREAS
OF COOPERATION WITH ITS SECURITY MEASURES.

2. OWEN VISIT. ARTICLES ON VISIT REPORTED OWEN MET WITH
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FONMIN KHADDAM AND LATER JOINTLY WITH PRIMIN KHULAYFWAI AND
AND KHADDAM. KHADDAM REMARKED AT BANQUET IN OWEN'S
HONOR THAT SYRIA WELCOMED EUROPEAN EFFORTS IN SEARCH
OF ME SOLUTION AND ASSERTED THAT SYRIA HAD STRIVEN FROM
BEGINNING TO INSURE "SOME EUROPEAN SECURITY COUNCIL
MEMBERS" HAVE ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE. IN SAME SPEECH
KHADDAM WARNED THAT ADF WOULD EMPLOY ALL MEANS TO DETER

ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT PEACE IN LEBANON. IN HIS REMARKS, OWEN STATED THAT "NOBODY NOW DENIES THAT SEEKING HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIANS IS ONE OF FUNDAMENTAL MATTERS WHICH MUST BE NEGOTIATED." HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS CONCERNED (WITH PEACE) AND SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE AREA "THIS YEAR."

3. ME PEACE CONFERENCE AND LEBANON. MEDIA CITED STATEMENT OF ZUHAYR MUSHSIN KUWAIT IN WHICH HE CLAIMED PALESTINIANS SUPPORTED FORMATION OF FULLY UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION AT GENEVA AS WAS CASE DURING ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE. HE ALSO STATED THAT PLO AGAINST ANY INTERPRETATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT NOT AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE PLO AND LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HE STRESSED THAT SYRIA'S POSITION REGARDING ALL ISSUES RAISED ARE CLEAR AND OPEN, AND SYRIA ACCEPTS EVERYTHING THE PALESTINIANS, REPRESENTED BY THE PLO, ACCEPT."

4. AL-BAATH COLUMN ON GENEVA NOTED CURRENT OPTIMISM ABOUT ME PEACE EFFORTS BUT EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS IN LIGHT OF "ISRAEL'S HOSTILE PROVOCATIONS" AIMED AT THE ARABS. IT DECLARED THAT ONE PARTY INSUFFICIENT TO MAKE PEACE AND WARNED AGAINST "UNACCEPTABLE INERTIA". ARTICLE CAUTIONED THAT FAILURE TO BRING ABOUT SOLUTION WOULD ENDANGER WORLD PEACE.

5. TISHRIIN COLUMN BY JIBRAN KURIYYA ENTITLED, "WHAT WASHINGTON CAN DO IN THE AREA," DECLARED THAT SYRIA GOING IN SEVERAL DIRECTIONS IN EFFORTS TO FURTHER PEACE (RQQR U.S. AND SOVIET UNION). HE DECLARED THAT WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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BOUND SYRIA TO SOVIET UNION NOT SAME AS WHAT JOINED IT TO U.S. HE ASSERTED THAT U.S. BORE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS PEACE IN THE WORLD AND THE ME, BUT CAUTIONED THAT "NOT ALL THE CARDS IN ITS HAND." HE PREDICTABLY CALLED UPON WASHINGTON TO EXERT EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. HE AVERRED THAT CARTER HAD NOT YET THROWN ALL HIS CARDS ON THE TABLE AND URGED THAT THIS SITUATION CHANGE BEFORE MEETING ASAD WILL CONDUCT WITH CARTER.

6. COMMENT: FOLLOWING HEAVY PUBLICITY ACCORDED MOSCOW VISIT, TISHRIIN COLUMNIST APPARENTLY SEEKING TO RESTORE BALANCE BY REMINDING READERS OF IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ROLE IN ARRANGING ME SETTLEMENT. THEROS

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